

Message Text

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11

ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EA-04 EB-05 IGA-02 INR-09 CIAE-00 /080 W

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R 090805 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8418

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AIDAC

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: EGEN, VS

SUBJECT: RICE PRICING CHANGES

REF.: SA. SAIGON 2928

B. SAIGON 3182

1. PLANNED MOE RICE PRICE INCREASES REPORTED REFERENCES A AND B WITH SLIGHT MODIFICATIONS BECAME EFFECTIVE MARCH 6.

2. THE WHOLESALE SELLING PRICES FOR U. S. RICE THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY ARE INCREASED AS FOLLOWS:

A) U. S. MEDIUM GRAIN: FROM 75 TO 90 \$ VN/ KG

B) U. S. LONG GRAIN : FROM 80 TO 96 \$ VN/ KG

3. ALL MOE SUBSIDIES PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR PRIVATE SECTOR SHIPMENT OF DOMESTIC RICE TO CVN ARE CANCELLED AND THE MOE WHOLESALE SELLING PRICE OF DOMESTIC RICE IN CVN IS RAISED TO INCLUDE ALL COSTS, INCLUDING ORIGINAL PURCHASE PRICE, FREIGHT, LOADING AND OFFLOADING COSTS, AND A 2 PERCENT ADMINISTRATIVE HANDLING CHARGE. THUS THE NEW MOE SELLING PRICE OF DOMESTIC RICE IN CVN AVERAGES OUT AT 85.8 \$ VN/ KILO, A LITTLE HIGHER IN MR-1, A LITTLE LOWER IN MR-2, REFLECTING SHIPPING DIFFERENCES.

4. CURRENTLY THERE ARE NO MOE STOCKS OF DOMESTIC RICE TO SELL IN CVN. THE EFFECTS OF CHANGING THE MOE SELLING PRICES SHOULD BE TO MAKE U. S. RICE A " LAST RESORT" PURCHASE AND TO ENCOURAGE INCREASED PRIVATE SECTOR SHIPMENTS OF DOMESTIC RICE TO CVN TO MEET LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INCREASED DEMAND. FURTHER INCREASES IN MOE RICE SELLING PRICES WILL LIKELY HAVE TO BE MADE DURING THE YEAR TO ENSURE REGULARIZED MOVEMENT OF DOMESTIC RICE TO CVN BY THE PRIVATE SECTOR.

5. AS REPORTED REF A, MOE IS NOT SATISFIED WITH CURRENT PACE OF MOE RICE PURCHASES FROM THE DELTA. THIS SITUATION WILL BE DISCUSSED AT A MEETING MARCH 12 BETWEEN MOE AND THE MAJOR RICE MERCHANTS. IT IS VERY LIKELY THE MERCHANTS WILL ARGUE FOR A HIGHER PURCHASE PRICE. MOE WILL BE AGREEABLE TO THIS CONDITIONAL TO COMMITMENTS BY MERCHANTS TO QUICKEN SUBSTANTIALY THE PACE OF SALES TO MOE. DECLASSIFIED APRIL 31, 1973.
BUNKER

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: VS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 MAR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973SAIGON03846
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: SAIGON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730323/aaaahfxo.tel
Line Count: 80
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AID
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 SAIGON 2928, 73 SAIGON 3182
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 DEC 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05-Dec-2001 by martinml>; APPROVED <28-Dec-2001 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> jms 971110
Subject: RICE PRICING CHANGES
TAGS: EGEN
To: AID
SECSTATE WASHDC
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005